

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 9

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2004 Regular Session
4r3073

By: **Senator Hogan**

Introduced and read first time: February 20, 2004
Rules suspended
Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Higher Education - Commission to Study Maryland's Commitment to and**
3 **Funding of Higher Education**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a commission to study the coordination, funding,
5 educational delivery, and State commitment to higher education in the State;
6 providing for the membership and appointment of the chairman of the
7 commission; requiring the commission to solicit the views of certain groups in its
8 deliberations; requiring the commission to engage certain services to conduct a
9 certain study of funding needs for the University System of Maryland; requiring
10 the commission to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and
11 General Assembly; providing for the staffing of the commission; providing for
12 certain notice procedures for meetings of the commission; and generally relating
13 to establishing a commission to study higher education in the State.

14 WHEREAS, Over 15 years have passed since the General Assembly and
15 Governor created the Maryland Charter for Higher Education; and

16 WHEREAS, The General Assembly and Governor have established several
17 goals for public higher education in Maryland, including the goal of "achieving and
18 sustaining national eminence" and the goal of serving students to "maintain an
19 educated workforce in the State"; and

20 WHEREAS, A major State recession in the early 1990's dramatically affected
21 State funding for higher education; and

22 WHEREAS, A decade later, another major State recession led to reductions in
23 funding for higher education, undoing several years of significant investment in
24 higher education by the State; and

25 WHEREAS, During each recession, tuition increased significantly and
26 unexpectedly, placing a burden on Maryland students and their families; and

27 WHEREAS, Decreased state support leading to increases in tuition is a
28 pattern that occurs across the country and has resulted in some public institutions of
29 higher education placing caps on enrollment, an action that would severely harm
30 Maryland's efforts to serve a growing number of college-age students; and

1 WHEREAS, Decreased State support for Maryland's public institutions of
2 higher education has caused a reduction in student services and an increase in class
3 sizes and staff layoffs, all of which pose a threat to Maryland's progress towards
4 achieving and sustaining national eminence; and

5 WHEREAS, The General Assembly and the Governor created a "funding
6 guideline" to measure the adequacy of funding for public higher education institutions
7 in Maryland compared to peer institutions around the country. Maryland's progress
8 towards achieving the funding guideline level has declined since fiscal year 2002; and

9 WHEREAS, A more stable funding source for higher education is necessary to
10 meet the goals of the Maryland Charter for Higher Education; and

11 WHEREAS, Several proposals have been introduced during the 2004 Session
12 of the General Assembly to place limits on tuition increases or to provide predictable
13 State funding for higher education; and

14 WHEREAS, Maryland can learn from past experiences and the experiences of
15 other states in managing higher education funding and tuition increases; now,
16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the
18 General Assembly and Governor shall establish a commission to study the
19 coordination, funding, educational delivery, and State commitment to higher
20 education in Maryland; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the commission consider methods to provide a combined
22 level of State funding support and tuition revenue to enable Maryland's public
23 institutions of higher education to meet the goals of the Maryland Charter for Higher
24 Education and compete with peer institutions across the country. The commission
25 shall also consider other issues related to State funding and tuition revenue for public
26 institutions of higher education; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the commission be composed of:

28 (1) Four members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
29 of the Senate;

30 (2) Four members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
31 the House;

32 (3) The Secretary of Higher Education;

33 (4) The President of the University of Maryland, College Park, or a
34 designee of that President;

35 (5) The President of the University of Maryland University College or a
36 designee of that President;

- 1 (6) The President of Morgan State University or a designee of that
2 President;
- 3 (7) The President of The Johns Hopkins University or a designee of that
4 President;
- 5 (8) One member of the Board of Regents of the University System of
6 Maryland;
- 7 (9) Two members of the Board of Visitors of the constituent institutions
8 of the University System of Maryland, appointed jointly by the President of the
9 Senate and the Speaker of the House;
- 10 (10) One representative of the Maryland Association of Community
11 Colleges; and
- 12 (11) Four members of the public appointed by the Governor; and be it
13 further

14 RESOLVED, That the chairman of the commission shall be jointly appointed
15 by the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House; and be it
16 further

17 RESOLVED, That the commission shall solicit the views of the public, the
18 Board of Regents of the University System of Maryland, the members of the Board of
19 Visitors of the constituent institutions of the University System of Maryland, the
20 members of the Maryland Higher Education Commission, and leading national
21 experts in higher education, including the American Association of State Colleges and
22 Universities, the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges,
23 and the Southern Regional Education Board; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the commission shall engage the services of the Education
25 Commission of the States to conduct a study of the current and future funding needs
26 of the constituent institutions of the University System of Maryland to assist each
27 institution in reaching its stated mission and goals, including a history of State
28 funding prior to the formation of the University System of Maryland in 1988 and
29 during the years following the formation of the System; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the commission shall review options and make
31 recommendations relating to the establishment of a consistent and stable funding
32 mechanism to ensure accessibility while at the same time promoting policies to
33 achieve national eminence at Maryland's public institutions of higher education; and
34 be it further

35 RESOLVED, That the commission report its findings and recommendations to
36 the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to
37 the General Assembly by December 1, 2005; and be it further

38 RESOLVED, That staff for the commission shall be provided and coordinated
39 by the Department of Legislative Services. The Department of Budget and

1 Management, the Maryland Higher Education Commission, and the University
2 System of Maryland shall also assign staff to assist the commission. Notice of each
3 meeting of the commission shall be made public by delivering a copy of the meeting
4 notice to the Legislative Information Officer, Room B-6, Department of Legislative
5 Services, Legislative Services Building, 90 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland
6 21401-1991. The notice should be delivered no later than Tuesday afternoon at 4:00
7 p.m. for inclusion in the weekly Hearing Schedule; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
9 Legislative Services to the Honorable Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor of Maryland;
10 the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and
11 the Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates.